

ADVANCED MEDICAL ACUPUNCTURE



FOR VETERINARIANS

Presented and directed by Narda G. Robinson, DO, DVM, MS, FAAMA
President and CEO, CuraCore Integrative Medicine & Education Center



Broaden and revitalize your
acupuncture knowledge

Refresh and update
your connection to the
research evidence

Become an advocate for
scientific integrative medicine

Take your treatments to a
higher level of sophistication

RACE approved

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114 hours of continuing education



CURACORE
INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE & EDUCATION CENTER

REVISIT. REFRESH. RECHARGE.

UNDERSTAND THE SCIENCE OF ACUPUNCTURE.

ABOUT THE COURSE

Dr. Robinson designed the curriculum of Advanced Medical Acupuncture (AMA) to meet the needs of veterinary acupuncturists who have graduated from the Medical Acupuncture for Veterinarians (MAV) program, the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society, or the Chi Institute. All can benefit from learning the principles of neuromodulation and connective tissue modification at a more in-depth level.

As with CuraCore's other continuing education programs, Dr. Robinson seeks through AMA to cultivate leadership and professionalism among integrative medical practitioners. She does so by challenging her colleagues and students to transcend passive acceptance of traditional practice for both conventional and integrative medicine and to develop new standards of care based on rational methodologies, evidence-informed best practices, and patient advocacy.



Required Text:

Interactive Medical Acupuncture Anatomy by Narda G. Robinson, DO, DVM, MS, FAAMA, published by CRC Press, March 2, 2016.

The course will refer frequently to required reading assignments from this book. (Available through Amazon)

OUR GOALS FOR AMA GRADUATES

- Become more effective and informed veterinary medical acupuncturists
- Improve diagnostic acumen by recognizing the importance of including myofascial palpation with every examination
- Design better, more comprehensive, and longer lasting acupuncture treatments
- Address local, regional and systemic issues through restorative neuromodulation
- Promote scientific standards for integrative medicine
- Critically evaluate acupuncture research and be able to rationally discuss and differentiate verum versus sham interventions in acupuncture
- Cogently implement electroacupuncture and other adjunctive acupuncture approaches safely and effectively
- Educate your colleagues and clients about the value of non-pharmacologic options, including medical acupuncture and related techniques
- Confidently question the status quo of drugs and surgery alone as first-line treatment and gain confidence in tackling that debate



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Module 1. Relevance of Connective Tissue

In this module, we explore the relevance of connective tissues to acupuncture. Myofascial palpation informs us of the state of the patient's connective tissue. It also serves as the vehicle, in part, for our treatment with medical acupuncture and related techniques. As such, when we practice medical acupuncture and integrative neuromodulation® (MAIN), we acknowledge the participation of the connective tissue along with the nervous system in both function and dysfunction.

Objectives:

- Identify the relevance of connective tissue to the mechanisms of acupuncture.
- Describe how acupuncture needles engage the connective tissue to engender neuromodulation.
- Develop an expanded and more nuanced view of the role of fascia in maintaining healthful function as well as perpetuating dysfunction.

Module 2. A Modern Perspective on Acupuncture

In this module, we review the landscape of medical acupuncture and its modernization, based on material drawn from the Medical Acupuncture for Veterinarians program.

Objectives:

- Gain perspective on how scientific medical acupuncture compares to other approaches.
- Compare the abstract concepts of Five Phases Acupuncture with findings from bio-behavioral views on personality types.
- Develop a framework for the neuroanatomic, vascular, and myofascial relationships to acupuncture points and channels.
- Delineate ways in which to maintain safety during acupuncture treatments.

Module 3. Neuromodulation

Here, we cover general approaches to neuromodulation and how it works through central, peripheral, and autonomic pathways. In keeping with Module 2, we review material from the Medical Acupuncture for Veterinarians program.

Objectives:

- Create a context for acupuncture intervention protocols that involve both neuroanatomic and myofascial components.
- Learn how needling the soma impacts internal organs and how internal organ dysfunction shows up in the soma.
- Preview neuromodulation protocols for head and neck disorders.
- Consider how points group according to regions and recognize their utility in clinical practice.
- Identify linkages between "master points" and autonomic nerve pathways.
- Critically analyze the anatomic basis and physiologic connections of the classically defined "Eight Influential Points."



Module 4. Applied Acupuncture Neuroanatomy

Point by point, channel by channel, this module investigates the anatomy and physiology of select acupuncture points in veterinary medicine

Objectives:

- Explore the structure-function relationships of acupuncture points.
- Identify neural and myofascial tissue targets for neuromodulation and connective tissue regulation.
- Discuss point combinations designed to improve and enhance clinical outcomes.
- Compare and contrast the physiologic benefits of needling, photomedicine, and electrical stimulation for a given point, patient type, or clinical condition.

Module 5. Applied Acupuncture Neuroanatomy

As a practicing acupuncturist already, you have most likely already heard people say that acupuncture is a placebo. You may have also been struck by their lack of awareness of most of the science or evidence supporting acupuncture and its effects. From my experience, many of the most outspoken critics of acupuncture know little to nothing about neuromodulation or the connective tissue changes that take place as a consequence of needling. Their claim that you are practicing placebo-based medicine is your opportunity to educate. In this module, I will show you some of the most common arguments and the papers that refute them. After all, we do not study placebo in an acupuncture course in order to just learn more about the admittedly intriguing elements of the placebo effect. We do so in order to discern for ourselves and others how acupuncture is more than placebo.

Objectives:

- Bolster the ability to stand up to skeptics: identify neural and myofascial tissue targets for neuromodulation and connective tissue regulation.
- Critique skeptics' arguments.
- Evaluate and examine acupuncture research from a critical perspective.

Module 6. Physiology of Acupuncture Analgesia

Study how acupuncture affects the central, peripheral, and autonomic nervous systems and myofascial substrate to alleviate discomfort. Doing so establishes a foundational knowledge base from which to draw as we move into the clinical applications of the MAIN® approach in upcoming activities.

Objectives:

- Describe the changes that happen in the central nervous system that produce analgesia in response to acupuncture.
- Outline how acupuncture signals, picked up by peripheral nerves, offset pain in the periphery.
- Define the role of autonomic nervous system neuromodulation in acupuncture analgesia.
- Discuss how needling of myofascial trigger points is thought to reduce myofascial pain and deactivate trigger points and taut bands.
- Apply these mechanisms to clinical scenarios for each acupuncture analgesia pathway.

Module 7. Autonomic Nervous System Physiology

Acupuncture points house autonomic nervous system structures that may influence internal organ function and system-wide physiologic states. In this module, we will explore in greater depth the ways in which stimulation of acupuncture points accomplishes those results.

Objectives:

- Recognize how acupuncture affects cardiovascular regulation.
- Anticipate the influence of neuromodulation on local and regional circulation.
- Explain how autonomic nervous system activity affects pain and endogenous analgesia.

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Module 8. Functional Brain Imaging and Acupuncture

Can fMRI scans actually determine how stimulation of a certain point “lights up” certain areas distinctly differently than do other points? Alas, the reality of functional brain imaging research as it relates to acupuncture is far from this clear.

Objectives:

- Know the ways in which functional brain imaging reflects brain activity pursuant to acupuncture.
- Critique research studies on acupuncture and its effects on the brain as monitored through functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI).
- Differentiate between what is known and what is not known in terms of acupuncture research and fMRI.
- List the challenges of performing fMRI scans on animals receiving acupuncture.

Module 9. MAIN Treatment Approaches for Problems of the Head and Neck

In this module, course participants develop and critique treatment approaches based on the principles and practices of neuromodulation and myofascial interventions as a means by which to begin practicing the application of MAIN, in preparation for Module 12.

Objectives:

- Evaluate recommended acupuncture and acupressure approaches for eye problems.
- Consider ways to treat headache based on the source(s) and nature of the pain.
- Critique current approaches to dental pain using acupuncture.
- Apply the MAIN treatment approach to other problems of the head and neck.

Module 10. MAIN Treatment Approaches for Orthopedic Problems

This module considers representative orthopedic conditions as models for other problems. That is, the goal is to encourage the learner to think deeply and creatively about musculoskeletal issues rather than memorize lists of points and targets. Why? Because every patient differs and the points or pathways to neuromodulation and connective tissue revision will be most effective when informed by astute and careful palpation examination as well as other findings from the history and physical examination of the patient. This module, like the previous one, provides an opportunity to begin practicing the application of MAIN, in preparation for Module 12.

Objectives:

- Remember that not all elbow, or knee, or back pain is the same.
- Look for sources of pain and dysfunction within the bone, joint, muscles, nerves, fascia, etc. of a presumably affected region.
- Consider whether the etiopathogenesis of the issue involves inflammatory, compressive, neuropathic, and/or neoplastic origins.
- Avoid tunnel vision in terms of both diagnosis and treatment!





Module 11. **Where Acupuncture Has Been, Is Now, and Will Be**

The contents of this module expose the student to acupuncture practices of today and yesteryear that exist outside of the strictly scientific approach.

Objectives:

- See the value of a scientific approach by learning about the problems and pitfalls of unsubstantiated methodologies.
- Critically evaluate the information supplied in acupuncture videos and articles that the general public or your colleagues may encounter or espouse.

Module 12. **MAIN for 50 Common and Not-So-Common Conditions**

In this final module (divided into five parts), participants employ the MAIN approach to build treatment protocols for 50 common and not-so-common conditions. In addition, students will compare and contrast unscientific approaches to some of these, with the purpose of identifying optimal treatment strategies based on rational, modern medical knowledge.

Objectives:

- Define and describe the MAIN approach for 50 common and not-so-common conditions.
- Take into account unscientific approaches to medical problems in order to identify areas of improvement in the field of acupuncture as well as to justify the promotion of higher scientific standards.

Course Syllabus for Advanced Medical Acupuncture

Course Overview and Perspective from

Narda G. Robinson, DO, DVM, MS, FAAMA, Course Director

I have been practicing osteopathic medicine and manual therapy since 1988. I learned about the interconnectedness of the body and connective tissues before taking my first course in acupuncture soon after completing my internship in 1989. During that richly formative period, I grew to appreciate the precepts of osteopathic philosophy and saw how well it applied to acupuncture as well as osteopathic medicine as a whole. These principles include ideas such as a) structure and function are reciprocally interrelated, and b) the body is capable of self-regulation, self-healing, and the maintenance of health.

After nearly three decades of practice, and with two decades of teaching, I developed a system of treatment that interweaves the myofascial connectivity of osteopathy with the neurophysiologic networks of acupuncture. This resulted in the creation of my comprehensive, science-based, and evidence-informed approach, "Medical Acupuncture and Integrative Neuromodulation® (MAIN).

COURSE GOALS

1. Design more substantial and effective acupuncture treatments.
2. Promote science-based acupuncture practice.
3. Advocate for acupuncture and its legitimacy as a modern medical approach.
4. Become adept at the MAIN® approach and apply it for fifty common and not-so-common conditions.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Graduates of this intensive online course will receive a certificate of completion in the Advanced Medical Acupuncture course if they successfully accomplish the following:

- Completion of all module activities
- Passing grade on all online assessments

COURSE CONTENT AND ACCESS

Participants will gain access to the online materials for 12 months following their enrollment. Content includes modules that participants can complete at their own pace. Each module may contain videos, reading assignments, and homework. Each participant must finish the program within the 12-month access period in order to receive a certificate of completion.

CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION

This course is RACE approved. Please contact your state's licensing agency or comparable regulatory board (if you practice outside of the United States) in order to determine whether this course qualifies for 114 continuing education credits. Those who satisfy all the requirements of the program will receive a certificate of completion.

ADMISSION ELIGIBILITY

Must be a graduate of MAV, Ivas or Chi Institute and have a current veterinarian license to practice

View our full curriculum at: curacore.org/ama-veterinarians/

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READY FOR MORE MEDICAL ACUPUNCTURE?



Narda G. Robinson, DO, DVM, MS, FAAMA

Dr. Robinson is a leading authority on scientific integrative medicine from a One Health perspective and has over two decades of practicing, teaching, and writing about integrative medical approaches in both veterinary and human osteopathic medicine.

In 1998, Dr. Robinson launched Colorado State University's first integrative medicine service and for eight years directed CSU's Center for Comparative and Integrative Pain Medicine. Over the past two decades, Dr. Robinson has taught a variety of popular, scientifically based continuing education courses, ranging from medical acupuncture and massage to herbology and photomedicine.

Dr. Robinson holds a Bachelor of Arts (AB) degree from Harvard/Radcliffe, a doctorate in osteopathic medicine (DO) from the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, and a doctorate in veterinary medicine (DVM) and master's degree in biomedical sciences (MS) from the Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. She is a fellow within the American Academy of Medical Acupuncture (AAMA). She also serves on the American Board of Medical Acupuncture, the board-certifying organization for physician medical acupuncturists, and the AAMA Board of Directors.



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